THE EXHIBITION SURPLUS: A SCHOOL OF DESIGN FOR SUNDERLAND.—The local committee of the Exhibition, existing in Sunderland, met on Monday week to memorialise the Royal Commissioners on the subject of the surplus (the mayor, Mr. W. Mordey, in the chair). The chairman referred to the industrial pursuits of Sunderland—shipbuilding, the manufacture of glass and earthenware, &c.—and urged the importance of having a school established in the town to inculcate art and science. The Rev. R. Skipsey proposed that the commissioners should be memorialised for a grant to assist in founding a school of design in Sunderland. Such a school, he stated, was on the eve of being established. The motion was seconded; and Mr. Hartley, the glass manufacturer, as reported, spoke earnestly on the importance of a due combination of theory and practice. He thought, however, that Sunderland was not yet quite ripe for the establishment of a school of instruction in the theory of the different trades and manufactures which she carried on. But if such an institution were founded in London, it might gradually extend its branches to the provinces. The same speaker afterwards remarked that he found in the Exhibition a most beautiful specimen of clay adapted for glass manufacture, which he had never heard of before: it came from Germany. On seeing it he sent to Germany for a supply on trial; and ten tons of it had arrived that very week at his works. Mr. Todd, another speaker, said that the Exhibition surplus should be applied to the foundation of a normal college in London. The result of the meeting was an adjournment for a fortnight.

LONDON IMPROVEMENTS UNDER THE COAL DUTY ACTS.—A return has been made to an order of the Common Council, from which it appears, among other heavy items, that the formation of Farringdon-street, removal of Fleet Market, and erection of Farringdon Market, cost 250,000*l.*; the building of the new Coal Market, and improvement of Thames-street, &c., 94,167*l.* odd; the formation of Cranbourne-street, Upper Wellington-street, and New Oxford-street, also of Commercial-street, Whitechapel; Victoria-street, Westminster; and other minor improvements without the city, 665,000*l.*; and the improvement of the approaches to New London-bridge, including ground and premises in a long list enumerated, 1,016,421*l.* odd. The sum total raised for public works and improvements out of the coal duties since 1766, is 3,738,067*l.* odd, of which 1,117,345*l.* were for those within the city, 807,500*l.* for those without the city, and 1,813,221*l.* odd for those of a general character.

ST. JAMES'S PALACE AND PALL MALL.—How long is that heterogeneous collection of unsightly and mean-looking buildings, called St. James's Palace, to be allowed to remain in its present state? Placed in immediate contrast with so many magnificent private residences, it serves merely as a reflection upon the boasted loyalty, public spirit, and taste of the age. At the same time might be effected that most desirable improvement first suggested in the columns of THE BUILDER, of continuing Pall-mall to the Green-park, clearing away the intermediate houses between the Earl of Ellesmere's and the Duke of Sutherland's, and thus giving a grand finish to one of the noblest thoroughfares which this or any other capital can boast. At all events, something should be done to the palace, unless it is to remain a monument to national disgrace.—FOOTPAD.

RATING LITERARY INSTITUTIONS.—Last week an appeal was made in the Court of Queen's Bench on the part of the subscribers to the Manchester Library and News-room, who occupies a building called the Portico, against a rate which had been assessed upon them by the overseers of Manchester in respect of their occupation. There are 400 subscribers to the Library and News-room, in which there are as many as 15,000 volumes, besides periodicals and journals. The affairs of the institution are conducted by a committee. The question now raised was, whether the building was exempt from rates within the provisions of the Exemption Act, as being a building occupied exclusively for the purposes of literature, science, or the fine arts. Lord Campbell said it was quite clear that this institution was *not* within the exemption. The statute exempted those places only which were established for the promotion of literature, science, and the fine arts exclusively, and did not extend the exemption to cases where the members derived a particular benefit to themselves. If this exemption were allowed, there was hardly a club in London which might not claim exemption. This was a private society, established for the convenience and advantage of its members. The rate must be affirmed.

THE IRON TRADE.—The first month of the quarter is ended without any amendment in this trade. A few privileged parties, enjoying unusual advantages as to mineral property, name, and payments, may be even now realising a small profit towards paying the interest of capital; but with far the greater number the expenses of production are scarcely covered, and many find themselves involved in a gradual but unavoidable impoverishment. It has been stated that in some localities near Stourbridge and Dudley the miners have given notices to demand an advance of wages; but should the men desert their employment in so ill-advised an effort, there is great doubt whether they will not have to return at lower than higher wages.—*Birmingham Gazette.*

IMPROVEMENT IN LIGHTHOUSES.—We are requested, by Mr. R. Rettie, to state that the telegraphic improvements attributed to Mr. Wells, of the Admiralty, in a recent number of THE BUILDER, are his, and not Mr. Wells's.

ELEMENTARY DRAWING AND MODELLING SCHOOLS FOR ARTISANS.—The Council of the Society of Arts, now that the Exhibition labours of those most likely to be interested in the subject are at an end, have resolved to urge forward this proposal, and with that view the secretary has published by their order an address to the public on the subject, reiterating what we have already announced, that as soon as any locality shall have signified its desire to establish one of the schools, the council will be prepared to afford the co-operation of the society on the conditions announced. It is the opinion of the council that the Schools of Design cannot properly fulfil their original purpose till it be made a necessary condition of entrance to them that the student has already acquired the power of drawing and modelling; and one object and advantage of the establishment of elementary schools would be the preparation of pupils for the Schools of Design.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.—The first ordinary meeting of the session will be held on Monday evening next, when a paper will be read by Mr. J. W. Papworth, "Upon some of the productions connected with Architecture in the Exhibition of 1851."

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF WATER-WORKS.—Mr. Hawksley, the engineer of the Whitehaven waterworks, says a contemporary, has been appointed, by Government, General Superintendent of Waterworks throughout the kingdom.

PUBLIC BATHS AND WASHHOUSES IN LONDON.—The following is the return for the month ending October 31st:—

ESTABLISHMENTS.	BATH DEPARTMENT.		WASH-HOUSE DEPARTMENT.	
	Number of Bathers	Total Receipts	Number of Washers.	Total Receipts
LONDON.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
The Model, Whitechapel	12,916	164 0 0	4,394	48 0 0
St. Martin-in-the-fields	16,841	271 0 0	4,972	49 0 0
St. Marylebone	11,227	149 0 0	1,368	27 0 0
St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster	6,366	77 0 0	1,414	27 0 0
Greenwich	8,690	120 0 0	71	2 0 0
Totals	55,740	781 0 0	14,099	153 0 0

WALKING HEAD DOWNWARDS ON A CEILING!—Some interest has been excited in Pittsburg, says the *Montreal Courier*, by the performance of Mr. M'Cormack, who walks head downwards on (or rather under) a slab of polished marble, to which his feet attach themselves, as he asserts, by atmospheric pressure. He made some six or seven steps, the slab being only under nine feet long. This experiment is said to be the result of many years of research and labour, involving philosophical principles. Shoes are used, it is stated, with mechanical contrivance in imitation of the feet of flies, heretofore the sole performers of this kind of gymnastics. A large number of prominent citizens witnessed this, and other experiments of his upon discoveries of others. They resolved that Mr. M'Cormack be requested to deliver a public course of lectures in Pittsburg, and that the meeting pledge themselves to assist him in the prosecution of his scientific researches.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA.—Mr. Walsh, architect, whose name has, before now, been seen in our pages, has been appointed surveyor of highways and bridges for the city and parish of Kingston.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Architecturus to his Son," next week.

"J. F.," "H. H.," "D. G.," "W. W.," "D. K. H.," "D. G.," "G. M. H.," "L.," "M. T.," "R. S.," "S. H.," "Johnny," "E. R.," "H. A.," "F. F.," "W. K.," "T. L.," "B. T." Leicester (there is now no London agent), "J. B. W and Sons," "J. E.," "F. T.," "H. T. H.," "T. D." (asks "what will be the most economical and effectual manner of heating show-rooms four storeys high?" We should say, employ a proper person to do it), "W. M. R." (letter was not enclosed), "Argus," "E. C.," "B. C.," "T. T." (thanks), "R. F." (draws a very erroneous inference), "C. F. D.," "T. D.," "H. C. T.," "W. C.," "H. C.," "A Trustee," "A. G.," "J. W." (thanks), "J. H. D.," "R. M.," "H. W.," "H. D." (too late now), "Dun Edin," "Sid." (under consideration), "S. C., jun. (shall appear), "F. M. R.," "H. B. D." (we should be disposed to trust to it).

NOTICE.—All communications respecting advertisements should be addressed to the "Publisher," and not to the "Editor;" all other communications should be addressed to the EDITOR, and not to the Publisher.

"*Books and Addresses.*"—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

BENNETT'S THERMOMETERS, 65, Cheapside.—Railways, baths, churches, gardens, and dwellings SUPPLIED with every kind of THERMOMETER at this manufactory, where 1,000 may be had for 50*l.*, or may be selected from, at its cost, in stock, in stock between Hastings; larger sizes to suit every place, purpose, and climate. Barometers of equally moderate prices.—BENNETT, Watch, Clock, and Instrument Maker to the Royal Observatory, the Board of Ordnance, the Admiralty, and the Queen.—65, Cheapside.

LIGHTNING CONDUCTORS.—R. S. NEWALL and CO., Patentees of the Copper Rope Lightning Conductor, beg to inform the nobility, clergy, &c., that they supply Lightning Conductors, with the point and all complete, for 2*l.* 15*s.* per building, at one shilling the foot, whatever the altitude of the building intended to be protected.

R. S. NEWALL and CO.'s Patent Copper Rope Conductor is being used by architects, engineers, and scientific men in all parts of the kingdom.

References are permitted to Mr. Tristram, of the Adelphi; Mr. James Mitchell, of Leicester-office and Warehouse, 139, Strand, London; Manufactory, Gateshead-on-Tyne. Warehouse, 35, Queen-street, Glasgow.

TARPAULINS for COVERING ROOFS during Repairs, SCAFFOLD CORD and every description of ROPE used by Builders upon the lowest terms. Marquees and tent property Warranted, on sale or hire. Orders per post receive the most prompt attention.—WILLIAM PIGGOTT, 13, Pere Street, City, Manchester, by Appointment to Her Majesty's Honourable Board of Ordnance.

ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION, 1852. The Committee beg to announce that the Exhibition will be opened to the public at the Portland Gallery, opposite the Polytechnic Institution, Regent-street, on the 12th of January, 1852, and will remain open till the 12th of March. Drawings, &c., must be sent in to the 1st and 2nd of January. The Committee intend to adopt the recommendation given at the public meeting of subscribers, and to unite with the Exhibition a Museum of Inventions, Patents, &c., &c., and any other objects directly connected with Architecture. Applications, addressed by letter, to either of the hon. secretaries, will be immediately attended to.

JAMES ADDERTON, Jun., 3, Crown-court, Old Broad-street, City.
JAMES FERGUSON, F.R.A.S., 35, Langham-place, Regent-street.
} Honorary Secretaries.

COLOSSEUM.—The original and extraordinary PANORAMA of LONDON, painted by Mr. Parris, will be EXHIBITED, with the other splendid features of this Establishment, entirely remodelled, daily from half-past Two till half-past Four. The grand PANORAMA by NIGHT, by Dunnon and Son, every evening except Saturday, from Seven till Ten. The most admired music from two till half-past Four, and during the evening, when the conservatories, saloons, &c., are brilliantly illuminated. Admission, day or evening, 3*s.*; children and schools, half-price. CYCLORAMA, Albany-street, adjoining. A grand moving Panorama of London and the Earthquake in 1751, is exhibited daily at Three, and every evening (except Saturday), at Eight o'clock, illustrated by appropriate music on the new grand Apollonicon. Children and schools half-price.

THE DEPOSITORS of WORKS of ART and INGENUITY in the GREAT EXHIBITION, and others, are respectfully informed that the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION, incorporated in 1848, is CLOSED to the PUBLIC, for the purpose of receiving approved Depositors, female or otherwise, without expense to the Depositors. Those who wish to embrace this opportunity should send their works before the 1st of December, and they will then be fully professionalised in the Conservatory.

The INSTITUTION will be RE-OPENED on the 8th of DECEMBER. R. I. LONGBOTTOM, Secretary.

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